

DETAILED ACTION

In response to Applicant's amendments/remarks filed 02/23/2009 and telephone interviewed on 05/29/2009, the examiner's amendment was authorized by attorney of record, Michael J. Mallie, Attorney for Applicants.

- Claims **1, 5, 8, 10-13, 17, 20, 22-25, 29, 32, 34-36, 46-47 and 49 are currently amended** [see Examiner's Amendments cited below for details].
- Claims **44-45 are currently canceled.**
- Claims 2-3, 6-7, 14-15, 18-19, 26-27, 30-31 and 37-43 were previously canceled.
- Claims 4, 9, 16, 21, 28, 33, 48, and 50-52 were previously presented.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

- replace the claims with the following claim set:
1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
reproducing a paper document via a document reproduction system;

creating a multimedia annotation for ~~[[a]]~~the paper document during the reproduction, wherein the multimedia annotation~~representing at least one of is an audio sound and a video clip that is input by a user via a microphone of the document reproduction system;~~~~[[and]]~~

creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first multimedia document includes~~represented by a first bar code encoding that encodes the at least one of the audio sound therein; and video clip,~~

~~wherein the first multimedia document is generated in response to a user-initiated copy request to reproduce the paper document via a document reproduction system, wherein the multimedia annotation is captured via a microphone of an input device of the document reproduction system while the paper document is being reproduced via the document reproduction system, wherein the captured multimedia annotation is digitized by the document reproduction system and encoded within the first bar code, and~~

~~wherein processing the first multimedia document; which when scanned by a process, the process causes the printed multimedia annotation to be decoded, the at least one of the audio sound and video clip to be extracted from the multimedia annotation, and the least one extracted audio sound and video clip can be played via a multimedia player.~~

decoding the multimedia annotation from the first bar code;

extracting the audio sound; and

playing the audio sound via a multimedia player.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a location indicator associated with the multimedia annotation is placed on the first multimedia document, wherein the location indicator indicates where the multimedia annotation can be retrieved and played.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the location indicator comprises a first Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicated in plain text, and wherein the first multimedia document includes a second bar code, wherein the first URL is indicated in plain text, and wherein the second bar code represents the first URL in an encrypted form.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating an image of the paper document, wherein the image of the paper document ~~being is~~ unconsciously captured via the document reproduction system during the reproduction of the paper document without user intervention;

creating a second multimedia document by combining the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation; and

storing the ~~image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second multimedia document in a storage that stores a plurality of multimedia documents, wherein the second multimedia document is an electronic document associated with the first multimedia document which is a physical document.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the second multimedia document is represented as a second Uniform Resource Locator (URL) printed on the first multimedia document, and wherein the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation is accessed with the second URL.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the first multimedia document includes a third bar code that is used to represent the second URL.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

automatically ~~sending~~ emailing the second multimedia document to a recipient ~~by electronic mail as a part of~~ during the reproducing reproduction of the paper document ~~via the document reproduction system~~, wherein the recipient is specified by a user via an interface of the document reproduction system when the user reproduces the paper document using the document reproduction system.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the recipient receives the ~~image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second multimedia document in the form of Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME).

13. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium providing instructions[[,]] which, when executed by a set of one or more processors, cause said set of one or more processors to perform the following:

reproducing a paper document via a document reproduction system;

creating a multimedia annotation for [[a]]the paper document during the reproduction, wherein the multimedia annotation ~~representing at least one of~~ is an audio sound and a video clip that is input by a user via a microphone of the document reproduction system;[[and]]

creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first multimedia document includes ~~represented by a first bar code encoding that encodes the at least one of the audio sound therein; and video clip,~~

~~wherein the first multimedia document is generated in response to a user-initiated copy request to reproduce the paper document via a document reproduction system, wherein the multimedia annotation is captured via a microphone of an input device of the document reproduction system while the paper document is being reproduced via the document reproduction system, wherein the captured multimedia~~

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~~annotation is digitized by the document reproduction system and encoded within the first bar code, and~~

~~wherein processing the first multimedia document; which when scanned by a process, the process causes the printed multimedia annotation to be decoded, the at least one of the audio sound and video clip to be extracted from the multimedia annotation, and the least one extracted audio sound and video clip can be played via a multimedia player.~~

decoding the multimedia annotation from the first bar code;

extracting the audio sound; and

playing the audio sound via a multimedia player.

14-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein a location indicator associated with the multimedia annotation is placed on the first multimedia document, wherein the location indicator indicates where the multimedia annotation can be retrieved and played.

17. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the location indicator comprises a first Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicated in plain text, and wherein the first multimedia document includes a second bar code, wherein

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~~the first URL is indicated in plain text, and wherein the second bar code represents the first URL in an encrypted form.~~

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising:

generating an image of the paper document, wherein the image of the paper document ~~being~~ is unconsciously captured via the document reproduction system during the reproduction of the paper document without user intervention;

creating a second multimedia document by combining the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation; and

~~storing the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second multimedia document in a storage that stores a plurality of multimedia documents, wherein the second multimedia document is an electronic document associated with the first multimedia document which is a physical document.

21. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the second multimedia document is represented as a second Uniform Resource Locator (URL) printed on the first multimedia document, and wherein the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation is accessed with the second URL.

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22. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the first multimedia document includes a third bar code that is used to represent the second URL.

23. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising:

automatically ~~sending~~ emailing the second multimedia document to a recipient ~~by electronic mail as a part of~~ during the reproducing reproduction of the paper document ~~via the document reproduction system~~, wherein the recipient is specified by a user via an interface of the document reproduction system when the user reproduces the paper document using the document reproduction system.

24. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the recipient receives the ~~image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second multimedia document in the form of Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME).

25. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a bus;

a data storage device coupled to the bus; and

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a processor coupled to the data storage device, the processor operable to receive instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

reproducing a paper document via a document reproduction system;

creating a multimedia annotation for [[a]]the paper document during the reproduction, wherein the multimedia annotation ~~representing at least one of is~~ an audio sound ~~and a video clip~~ that is input by a user via a microphone of the document reproduction system;[[and]]

creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first multimedia document includes ~~represented by a first bar code encoding that encodes the at least one of the~~ audio sound ~~therein;and video clip,~~

~~wherein the first multimedia document is generated in response to a user-initiated copy request to reproduce the paper document via a document reproduction system, wherein the multimedia annotation is captured via a microphone of an input device of the document reproduction system while the paper document is being reproduced via the document reproduction system, wherein the captured multimedia annotation is digitized by the document reproduction system and encoded within the first bar code, and~~

~~wherein processing the first multimedia document; which when scanned by a process, the process causes the printed multimedia annotation to be decoded, the at least one of the audio sound and video clip to be extracted from~~

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~~the multimedia annotation, and the least one extracted audio sound and video clip can be played via a multimedia player.~~

decoding the multimedia annotation from the first bar code;

extracting the audio sound; and

playing the audio sound via a multimedia player.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 25, wherein a location indicator associated with the multimedia annotation is placed on the first multimedia document, wherein the location indicator indicates where the multimedia annotation can be retrieved and played.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 28, wherein the location indicator comprises a first Uniform Resource Locator (URL) indicated in plain text, and wherein the first multimedia document includes a second bar code, wherein the first URL is indicated in plain text, and wherein the second bar code represents the first URL in an encrypted form.

30-31. (Canceled)

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32. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 25, ~~further comprising wherein~~
the method performed by the processor further comprises:

generating an image of the paper document, wherein the image of the paper document ~~being is~~ unconsciously captured via the document reproduction system during the reproduction of the paper document without user intervention;

creating a second multimedia document by combining the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation; and

~~storing the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second multimedia document in a storage that stores a plurality of multimedia documents, wherein the second multimedia document is an electronic document associated with the first multimedia document which is a physical document.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the second multimedia document is represented as a second Uniform Resource Locator (URL) printed on the first multimedia document, and wherein the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation is accessed with the second URL.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 33, wherein the first multimedia document includes a third bar code that is used to represents the second URL.

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35. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 32, ~~further comprising wherein~~
the method performed by the processor further comprises:

automatically ~~sending~~ emailing the second multimedia document to a recipient ~~by~~
~~electronic mail as a part of~~ during the reproducing reproduction of the paper document
~~via the document reproduction system~~, wherein the recipient is specified by a user via
an interface of the document reproduction system when the user reproduces the paper
document using the document reproduction system.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 35, wherein the recipient
receives the ~~image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation~~ second
multimedia document in the form of Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME).

37-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[45]]~~1, wherein the microphone is
automatically activated when the user selects a reproduction function of the document
reproduction system to reproduce the paper document.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

capturing a video clip of the multimedia annotation from ~~[[a]]the user using~~ via a
video camera of the ~~input device~~ document reproduction system when the user
reproduces the paper document using the document reproduction system.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the video camera is automatically activated when the user selects a reproduction function of the document reproduction system to reproduce the paper document.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising[[,]]:

in response to a request to retrieve a multimedia document from among the plurality of multimedia documents stored in the storage, performing a content-based search on multimedia annotations of the plurality of multimedia documents for the requested multimedia document within the storage based on content of the multimedia annotation associated with the requested multimedia document.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the content-based search is performed via an optical character recognition (OCR) process on the multimedia annotation of the multimedia documents being searched.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the content-based search is performed via a speech recognition mechanism on an audio sound of the multimedia annotation of the multimedia documents being searched.

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52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the content-based search is performed on a video clip of the multimedia annotation based on an image of the user using face recognition techniques.

Allowable Subject Matter

The prior art made of record:

➤ Morris et al.,	US005420974A	filed	10/15/1992
➤ Hoda et al.,	US 004831610	filed	03/03/1987
➤ Schena et al.,	US006448979B1	filed	01/25/1999
➤ Halliday et al.,	US005880740A	filed	06/12/1996

❖ Claim(s) 1, 4-5, 8-13, 16, 20-25, 28-29, 32-36 and 46-52, are allowed:

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record, which set forth in the followings:

Under the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claimed limitation which is consistence with the Applicant's Specification. The prior art cited above fails to teach all of the Applicant's claimed limitation. In particularly, the claimed invention advantageously provides a finer level of detail that enables a multimedia annotation being annotated during the reproducing of a paper document; wherein the multimedia is

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an audio sound that is input by a user via a microphone of the document reproduction system; and creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first multimedia document includes a first bar code that encodes the audio sound therein; processing the first multimedia document. this allows the decoding the multimedia annotation from the first bar code; extracting the audio sound; and playing the audio sound via a multimedia player [see the currently amended claim(s) 1, 13 and 25 which cited above and the Applicant's remarks filed 02/23/2009 at page(s) 16-17 the last paragraph and supported by the current specification at page 8 line 25 through page 9 line 2.]

The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record as describes above when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon through Fri 8AM - 5PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on (571)272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Quoc A. Tran/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/DOUG HUTTON/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2176